Police kill 13-year-old student in custody

By Niaz Mohammad Khan

SANGHAR, Jan 1: Two personnel of Shahpur Chakar police were arrested hours after a police party shot dead a sixth-class student during a raid carried out in Gahno Khan Mangwano village, Sanghar district, on Friday.

Thirteen-year-old Chanesar Khan, the only child of Mohammad Bux, was a student of Government High School, Chak No 4, near Head Jamrao.

The murder shook the small community and about 100 villagers took the dead to Mangli police station, demanding the registration of FIR against the personnel involved.

Narrating the tale, the uncle of the victim, Allah Wasayo, said that six or seven policemen headed by ASI Shabbir Lashari came to the village early in the morning and laid a siege to the house of Mohammad Bux, who was not home.

The police resorted to heavy shooting, creating harassment in the neighbourhood before storming into the house where they caught hold of the boy and dragged him onto their mobile, said Mr Wasayo.

He claimed that the villagers tried to rescue the boy but the police again opened fire, hitting the boy who was injured. The police then tried to leave the scene but the villagers pleaded with them to take the boy to hospital. The police agreed.

Two men, Pyaro and Yaqoob, boarded the mobile with the boy but the police, according to the accompanying villagers, took the wounded to Shahpur Chakar police station, instead of a hospital, where the teenager died owing to profuse bleeding.

The two men took the body to Mangli police station, in whose limits their village fell, to lodge an FIR but the police refused. Others villagers also gathered at the police station.

In the meantime, SDM Nazeer Hussain Jamali reached there and it was only after he had warned the duty officer of "stern action" that the case was registered under Section 302 of the PPC.

Meanwhile, ASI Lashari, who had surrendered to Sanghar police, was brought to Mangli police station and sent behind bars.

The SHO of Shahpur Chakar told the journalists that constable Ali Nawaz Naich, who allegedly fired at the boy, was arrested while the rest of the personnel involved were still at large.

ASI'S CLAIM: ASI Lashari said that the village had been raided on the compliant of a person, Mahram, that three women of his family were abducted by some people of Mangwana community.

During the raid, the ASI claimed, a "man" from Mangwana tribe, identified as Chanesar, was arrested and when the police were taking him along they were attacked by a mob and Chanesar tried to snatch a rifle from a policeman, Ali Nawaz Naich, who shot and injured him.

The ASI failed to give any satisfactory answer when asked why Shahpur Chakar police carried out the raid in the jurisdiction of Mangli police without informing the officials concerned.